

# the **big care** debate

The Government recently published the long-awaited Green Paper on long-term funding for social care. This proposes to establish a National Care Service in which anyone who meets a new England-wide eligibility threshold will be entitled to some state funding for their personal care.

However, as life expectancy rises, and care costs become ever higher, public funding will not be sufficient to cover the costs of social care in the future. Therefore, the Department of Health proposes to use money currently spent on Attendance Allowance, which is paid to all older people with care needs, to help fund the new service. Specifically, the Department of Health suggests that the state should fund a minimum of a quarter to a third of the care costs of people in need, with more state funding available for people who are less wealthy.

It also puts forward three possible models for how individuals would contribute to their care costs:

- A **partnership model** in which the state would cover a proportion of the care costs (a quarter to a third) and individuals pay for the rest;
- An **insurance model** in which the state would still pay for a proportion of the costs and invite people to pay into an open or a state-backed insurance scheme which would meet the remaining costs;
- A **comprehensive model** in which (in addition to the basic state contribution) everyone who reached retirement age pays a set amount into a state insurance scheme, regardless of whether they go on to need care.



All three proposals are thought to ensure the Government's vision to make the National Care Service fair, simple and easy to understand, affordable, universal and flexible to allow people to live their lives in the way they want to. They would end the current situation in which some people are required to spend upwards of £200,000 on long-term care, and ensure everyone the same level of support independent of where they live.

The National Care Service as suggested in the Green Paper would not meet the costs of accommodation (as opposed to care) in care homes; although people of low means would continue to have these costs met.

See overleaf to find out how to join the Debate in Lancashire. To find out more about the National Big Care Debate, please go to <http://careandsupport.direct.gov.uk/>



## Join the Big Care Debate in Lancashire

If you would like to have your say on which of these models you think is best and whether you think the level of state funding should be determined locally or by Central Government, please join the **Big Care Debate**.

There are different ways for Lancashire citizens to get involved in this debate:

- Have your say by attending one of Lancashire County Council's workshops if you are a carer, service user or involved with social care services in some way.

**Central Lancashire:** Wellington Park on 25th September

**North Lancashire:** Garstang Golf Club on 28th September

**East Lancashire:** Northbridge House on 2nd October

To book a place ring Jessica Rose on 01772 536978.



- Have your say by phone and ring 01772 538100 during office hours from **28th September till 2nd October** (or leave a message out of hours, we can also ring you back). We have made arrangements to accommodate the following languages:

**English, Urdu, Punjabi, Hindi, Gujarati and Polish**

- Have your say by emailing us at [bigcaredebate@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:bigcaredebate@lancashire.gov.uk)
- Have your say by completing an online questionnaire, available on the county council's website at [www.lancashire.gov.uk/bigcaredebate](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/bigcaredebate)

## What is the Lancashire LINK?

The Lancashire Local Involvement Network (LINK) is a network of individuals, groups and organisations who want to make Health and Social Care services better. It's a new way to let local people - as groups or as individuals - have their say about Health and Social Care services, and then use their feedback to make positive changes.

We do this by organising events, going out to meet with community groups and individuals, sharing information about local health and social care through our monthly newsletter and by providing opportunities for you to give your views, including on the Big Care Debate.



If you are interested in getting involved please contact the LINK Support Team by phoning 01772 431195, emailing us at [lancashirelink@blackhealthagency.org.uk](mailto:lancashirelink@blackhealthagency.org.uk) or visiting our website at [www.lancashirelink.org.uk](http://www.lancashirelink.org.uk).